

and local law enforcement. The legislation is similar to a State law which President Bush signed into law during his tenure as the Governor of Texas. The Harvard study only reinforces my support for this legislation.

SETTLING THE SOFTWOOD LUMBER DISPUTE: POSSIBILITIES AND PROBLEMS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, the Bush administration is currently involved in negotiations to settle a dispute regarding the importation of Canadian softwood lumber.

Softwood lumber is essential for building quality, affordable homes in the United States.

Its price and availability have a major impact on the U.S. economy, workers and consumers. The U.S. homebuilding industry employs 6.5 million people. The Census Bureau estimates a price increase of \$1,500 for the average new home—expected if an export tax or duty is imposed on Canadian softwood lumber coming into the U.S.—which would prevent approximately 450,000 families from qualifying for a home mortgage. These families are likely to be less advantaged groups in the population.

Quite simply, Canadian softwood lumber is needed here. It has different qualities than the lumber produced in the U.S. and is used for different purposes. The southern yellow pine produced in the U.S. cannot replace Canadian spruce-pine-fir, which is used by American home builders for interior walls. These homebuilders use U.S. southern yellow pine for decks and flooring because of its strength and ability to accept hard treatment. But if southern yellow pine were used in interior walls, unlike Canadian spruce-pine-fir, it could twist, warp and shrink causing nails to “pop.” Obviously, this would result in problems for home builders and consumers.

There are a number of proposed settlements that raise legal and practical concerns. These proposed settlements range from the imposition by the Canadian government of an “export tax” on the sale of Canadian lumber to U.S. companies, to mandated minimum prices established by both governments. Such settlements will cause volatility in lumber markets without adequately considering the disadvantages for U.S. consumers.

I urge the administration to base its decision on existing U.S. and international trade law, and I implore the administration to exclude from any settlement provisions that would impose a de facto, foreign country-imposed sales tax on U.S. homebuyers.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the Girl Scouts of America who are celebrating their 90th anniversary. As the largest

organization for girls in the world, the Girl Scouts promote self confidence, values, integrity, and leadership. Through this worthwhile organization, girls are able to build character, skills for success, and have fun while doing it.

For a moment, I would like to brag about the Girl Scouts of Kansas. With over 40,000 girls and over 10,000 adult members in Kansas, the Girl Scouts are an active and necessary presence in my home State.

Throughout Kansas, the Girl Scouts are involved in various volunteer and community activities. Some programs include: Promoting anti-violence education; helping children of parents who are going through divorce; reaching out to immigrant children; organizing activities between girls and their incarcerated mothers; partnering with the Boys and Girls Club of America on various projects.

I am proud of all our Girl Scouts, most especially the ones in Kansas. Through the promotion of science, technology, health, fitness, and friendship, these girls will grow up to be outstanding young women. I commend all the Girl Scouts on their success and their commitment to this organization.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Girl Scouts, and congratulate the organization for its outstanding and unflagging efforts to make a positive impact on America's girls and young women for the past 90 years.

While the Girl Scouts Organization has successfully adapted to the changing times since its founding in 1912, thankfully its core values have remained the same, to teach young girls about their physical health and well-being, provide a place for them to acquire self-confidence and expertise, help them achieve their full potential, encourage them to act with integrity and character, and instill in them the importance of contributing to society and their community.

The Girl Scouts of Maine exemplify these values. In addition to fostering the programs that are at the core of girl scouting, the Girl Scouts of Maine have been visionary in creating an initiative to provide young girls, ages 9–12, education on bone health awareness. Considering that the National Osteoporosis Foundation recently found that 30 million women over the age of 50 have some form of osteoporosis, it is critical that girls learn to foster these healthy habits during their formative years.

In another example of the innovative work of the Girl Scouts of Maine, the Kennebec Council has launched the Women Investing In Girl Scouts, or WINGS, program. This effort strives to link Maine's vulnerable young girls with successful working women to provide these young girls with guidance and mentoring through their most pivotal and difficult years, in the hopes of decreasing the numbers of Maine girls

who fall victim to eating disorders, drug and alcohol abuse, and illegal activity and providing a positive influence at a crucial time.

I was heartened to recently learn that one in every seven girls in the State of Maine participates in the Girl Scouts. That's over 12,000 girls, a remarkable level of participation in a State of just one-and-a-quarter million people. Worldwide, the Girl Scouts boast a thriving membership of 3.8 million strong, and this membership continues to grow and prosper.

I again want to congratulate the Girl Scouts for 90 years of success, and wish the organization all the best as it embarks on its next 90 years.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to enthusiastically commend the good work of the Girl Scouts of the USA, on this week of their 90th Anniversary. For nine decades, this organization has been instrumental in the nurturing and development of millions of American youth in all communities, reaching beyond racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic barriers. Today, Girl Scouting has a membership of 3.8 million, making it the largest organization for girls in the world. In my home State of Wisconsin, there are 77,000 girls, one in five, who currently participate in Scouts.

One cannot quantify the positive impact the Girl Scouts have had on this country and our youth. Countless girls have emerged from this wonderful organization with the qualities and values we hope our children will embody. Countless girls have left Scouts strong and confident; thoughtful and creative; dedicated and involved; responsible and trustworthy. Countless girls have used their experiences in Scouts to develop a deep sense of justice, honor and integrity. Countless girls have matured into role models, leaders and public servants in their communities. I have had the pleasure of talking with numerous Girl Scouts and Girl Scouts alumni who have described the positive role Scouts has played in their lives. There are so many more stories that have, and can, be told about the extraordinary impact this organization has had.

I believe the best example of what the Girl Scouts represent is the Girl Scout Gold Award Young Women of Distinction. Each year, 10 young women receive this achievement, the organization's highest, for their exemplary sense of community service. I am proud to recognize one of those women: Elsa, a 17-year-old, who hails from Shorewood, WI. Elsa established the Avenue Store, a clothing ministry for low-income individuals in the Milwaukee area. As chairman of the board of the store, Elsa worked with a board of adults, established guidelines for the store, and designed and implemented a voucher system for obtaining clothes. She also worked with more than 60 schools and agencies in her community and trained over 50 volunteers. In the project's first year, the Avenue Store